7: Janlekha X-4,5 (1948-1953)p956 AO7 Central Thai AO7
Bangchan

121 lies the main problem of Southeast Asia -- the problem basically of transition. Writing in 1949, Paul Mus rightly states: "The traditional world was not dead; it still held sway in the countryside. A state of affairs, in which the people's livelihood is calculated in terms of one world and their taxes in those of quite another, cannot endure."[2]

* 128 433 Degree of Self-sufficiency

During 1952-53, a consumption study was made on 106 sample-farms, which include the 96 continuing sample-farms and 10 new farms brancing off from the original sample-farms of 1948. Details of this consumption study will be discussed in the section on ordinary household expenses later in this chapter. For the purpose of the present discussion, Table 46 -- frequency distribution of degree of self-sufficiency of those 106 sample-farms -- is here introduced. By degree of self-sufficiency is meant the proportion of the value of home-grown products expressed as a percentage of the total value of annual consumption. Quantitatively speaking, it is seen that Bangchan farm families produce more than half of the things they ordinarily consume.

• 24 433 [592] 000 However, the number of different products consumed which are produced by the family can be counted with the fingers of one hand. These are rice, fish, eggs, fruit and vegetables. On the other hand, there are scores of items

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2. Paul Mus, The Role of the Village in Vietnamese Politics.

[TEXT CONTINUED ON PAGE 296]